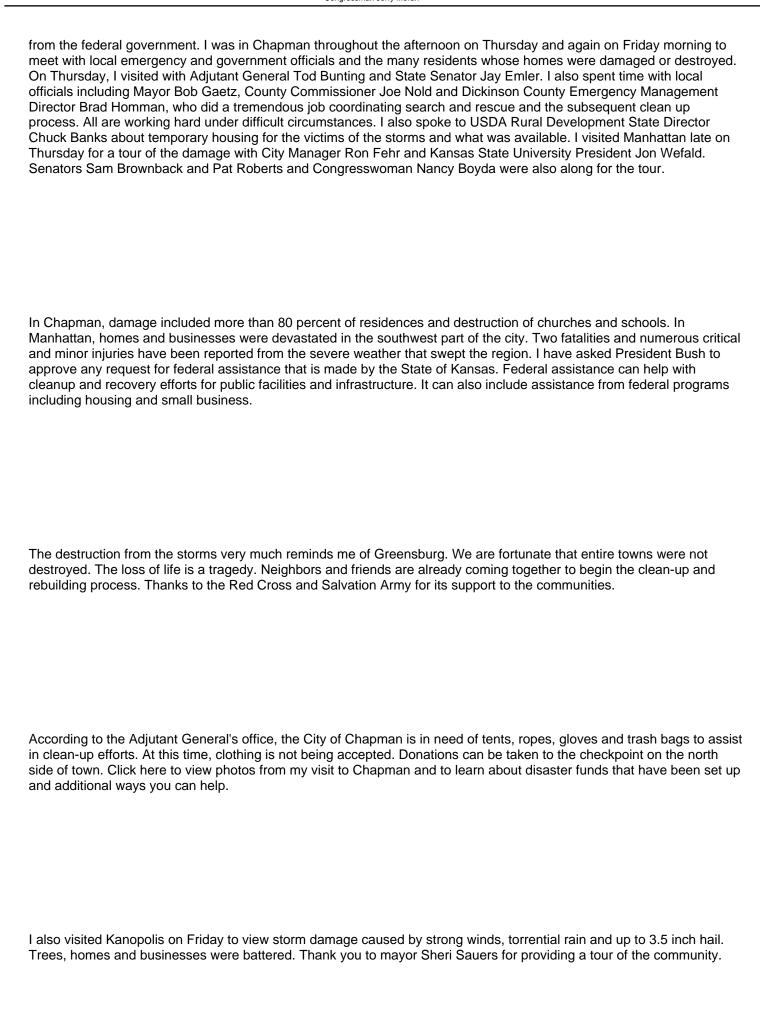
6/16/2008 This Week in Congress This Week in Congress June 16, 2008 Dear Friend, Welcome to "This Week in Congress." This week I delivered a speech in the House of Representatives in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Click here to view my remarks. On Wednesday the House passed legislation that authorizes up to \$14.9 billion for Amtrak and high speed rail investment. The legislation would provide capital and operating grants to Amtrak lines throughout the nation and would allow the construction of high-speed rail between heavily populated corridors across the country. I hope you find this newsletter useful. Severe Storms Hit Kansas Kansans have already experienced several severe storms this year that have brought wind, hail, tornadoes and flooding. Last week, another storm system developed tornadoes that hit the communities of Chapman and Manhattan and other parts of the region on Wednesday night.

After learning of the storm early Thursday morning, I flew back to Kansas and was able to visit Chapman early that afternoon. On the way, I visited by phone with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) David Paulison as well as Thomas Hall, federal coordinating officer for FEMA in Kansas, about the need for assistance



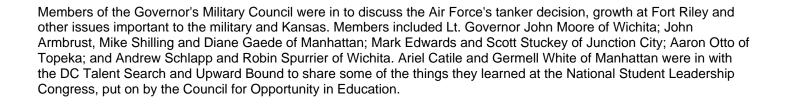
Working for Tax Relief for First Responders
This week, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued a regulation so public safety officers driving government vehicles will no longer have to pay taxes on the value of their commute to and from work when they are on call in their communities. Last year, I joined the Kansas Association of Counties and the Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association in asking U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson to provide this tax exemption.
Many public safety officers in Kansas, such as emergency medical service and emergency management employees, are on call 24 hours a day to respond to emergencies. While other emergency provider vehicles, including police vehicles, are specifically exempted from a commuting tax by the IRS, public safety officers are treated differently. Especially in rural Kansas, punishing these professionals for having ready access to vehicles while at home substantially reduces response times and diminishes the quality of health care and emergency management for citizens of the state. I am pleased the IRS responded to our request and public safety officers will be allowed to perform their job without interference from the IRS.
The new regulation will now go through a period of public comment before being finalized.
Veterans Committee Looks at Wounded Warrior Progress
The House Committee on Veterans Affairs held a hearing on Wednesday on the progress of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense in implementing legislation signed into law last year to improve care for service members



event in 2000 and has held the festival each year since. The festival is geared towards families and was very well

attended this year. I enjoyed seeing many friends at the barbecue.

In the Office
Derrick Sontag of Topeka, Kevin Tubbesing of Shawnee and Lafe Bailey of Sabetha were in with the National Federation of Independent Businesses to discuss tax regulations and the need for affordable health care options for small business owners. Brad Harrelson and Terry Holdren of Topeka were in with Kansas Farm Bureau to talk about rules related to the burning of Conservation Reserve Program acres and Kansas Farm Bureau's participation in the Kansas Energy and Environmental Policy Advisory Group.
Bret Healy of Topeka was in with the Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA) to give me an update on the progress of the KBA Bioenergy Working Group. Leslie Kaufman of Topeka was in with the Kansas Cooperative Council to discuss enacted provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill and transportation issues affecting Kansas agriculture. Ken Frahm of Colby was in with the Union of Concerned Scientists to talk about the production tax credit for electricity produced from wind energy. Karyn Page of Wichita was in with the Kansas World Trade Center to tell me about upcoming events at the Center.
Yvonne Miller, Valissa Smith and Brett Gordon of Kansas City were in representing the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation to tell me about the need for continued support of the Special Diabetes Program and other research to find a cure for diabetes. Dr. Mark Brady, Dr. John Breth and Dr. Gregory Unruh of the Kansas City area were in representing the Kansas Society of Anesthesiologists to explain the need for equality in services under Medicare and the importance of anesthesiology teaching programs.
Mickey Edwards and Dena Russell of Emporia and Lee and Vivian Wenger of Great Bend were in with the Kansas Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program to discuss expanding the program to provide resources for children as they age out of the court system. Jane Rhys of Topeka, Scott Shepherd of Overland Park and Kathy Brennon from Chanute were in with the Developmental Disabilities Council to discuss the need for long term care services and support.



David Hanson, Lori Church and Terry Tiede of Topeka; Keith Birkhead and Rick Wilborn of McPherson; and Gary Holle of Bremen were in with the Kansas Insurance Association to express their support for legislation that would encourage states to adopt certain building codes. Johnie Johnson and Brian Spurgeon of Hays were in with Nex-Tech Wireless to tell me about Federal Communications Commission policies affecting rural wireless providers.

Chris Wilson of Manhattan, Buenta Burger of Clay Center, Carolyn Kleiber of Hillsboro and Abby Dechant of Alma were in with Kansas Agri-Women to talk about the role their organization plays in biotechnology, energy, immigration and transportation. Don and Colleen Reinart of Peabody with Reliance Energy Partners, Jerrod and Danielle Wanklin of Manhattan with Wanklin Oil Company and Greg Noll of Winchester with the Propane Marketers Association of Kansas were in advocating for the propane industry.

Many Kansans stopped by my Washington, D.C., office this week for a tour of the United States Capitol building, including Tim and Carol Sack of Seneca, Lyle and Glenda Stohs of Marysville, Hope Tallent and Nate Owens of Kansas City, Cecil and Janett Jacobs of El Dorado, Aimee Daniels of Chanute, Melanie Watkins and Kris Timmermeyer-Rice of Newton, Joel and Diana Frederick of Lawrence, Johnie Johnson and Brian Spurgeon of Hays and Lee and Vivian Wenger of Great Bend.

Also in were Lou, Tammy, Caleb and Mikala Bradbury of Wellington; Mickey Edwards, Dena Russell and Curtis, Christy, Alex, Mikayla and Trey Simons of Emporia; Gary and Patti Schoenrock, Dick and Margie Pinairie and Mark and Sally Edwards of Junction City; Shelton Milton, Brian Campbell, Jeff Bowman, Suzanne Walenta-Bowman and Anna Jacobs of Wichita; and Jack and Janice Dufield of Liberal brought by their grandson, Holden Fitzgerald.

Several schools brought FFA students by my office to meet with me and take a tour of the Capitol, including Clay Center Community High School, Hill City High School and Marysville High School.	
Very truly yours,	
Jerry	